

An Ethical Implementation of Correlation, Causation and Determination in Public Policy, In Regard To Negative Social Phenomena

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There are three possible ethical responses to negative social phenomena, on a policy level.

--If a negative phenomenon is proven to involve a certain group, but this relationship is correlative, i.e., a large number of people of a certain group engage in an undesired activity, but the cause for this can also be shown to be attributed to other factors (such as poverty, place of residence, family structure or lack thereof, and so forth.)

In this case, there can be no ethical political response, based on inclusion in this group.

--If a negative phenomenon is proven to involve a certain group, and this relationship is proven to be causative, i.e., a person's inclusion in this group is a clear causative factor in determining the recurrence of a particular negative social phenomenon.

In this case, there can only be a proactive political response, based on inclusion in this group (such as education, access to information, training, and so forth).

--If a negative phenomenon is proven to involve a certain group, and this relationship is proven to be deterministic, i.e., a person's inclusion in this group absolutely results in the recurrence of a particular negative social phenomenon.

In this case, there can be punitive or corrective political response based on inclusion in this group (such as fines, incarceration, restriction of rights).